AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

LISTING OF CLAIMS IN THE CASE

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions:

1-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) An apparatus allowing connections via multiple types of communication protocols to be made to the apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a) a receptacle having a plurality of electrical connecting lines, wherein a signal received on at least one of said plurality of electrical connecting lines is used to detect more than one type of communication protocol used in a connection to be made directly to said receptacle, such that said more than one type of communication protocol can be used in a connection made to said receptacle without requiring use of an intermediate connection device;

b) a plurality of detection devices operable to detect ones of the types of communication protocols by a physical test; and

c) switching logic adapted to couple appropriate ones of the electrical connecting lines to ones of said plurality of detection devices to allow detection of the type of communication protocol used in a connection to the apparatus, wherein at least two of the detection devices are switched between a common line of the electrical connecting lines.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein at least two of the plurality of detection devices are operable to detect the type of protocol by a different physical test from the other of the at least two detection devices.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a detection device of said plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of protocol by detecting a voltage.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein a detection device of said plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of protocol by detecting a current.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a detection device of said plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of protocol by detecting a current.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a first of the types of protocols is an ISDN.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein a first of the types of protocols is a LAN.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 29, wherein a second of the types of protocols is a modem.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 30, wherein a third of the types of protocols is an ISDN.

32-35. (Cancelled)

36. (New) A peripheral component that allows modem, Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), or Local Area Network (LAN) connection to a host computing device via said peripheral component, said peripheral component comprising:

a receptacle having a plurality of electrical connecting lines, wherein at least one of said plurality of electrical connecting lines receives a signal used to detect more than one type of connection to be made directly to said receptacle;

connection type detection logic that allows determination of said connection between modem, ISDN, and LAN; and

switching logic adapted to couple appropriate ones of the electrical connecting lines to said connection type detection logic to allow detection between modem, ISDN, and LAN to the peripheral component.

37. (New) A peripheral component as recited in Claim 36, wherein said plurality of detection devices are operable to detect the type of connection by a physical test.

38. (New) A peripheral component as recited in Claim 36, wherein at least two of said plurality of detection devices use a physical test that is different from one another.

39. (New) A peripheral component as recited in Claim 36, wherein at least one of the plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of connection by detecting a voltage.

40. (New) A peripheral component as recited in Claim 39, wherein at least one of the plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of connection by detecting a current.

41. (New) A peripheral component as recited in Claim 36, wherein at least one of the plurality of detection devices is operable to detect the type of connection by detecting a current.

42. (New) A method for allowing multiple types of connections to be made to a peripheral component using a common receptacle comprising:

switching appropriate electrical connecting lines of said peripheral component to electrically couple a Local Area Network (LAN) detection device to said receptacle, wherein at least one of said electrical connecting lines is used to detect more than one type of connection made directly to said peripheral component;

determining if said peripheral component is coupled to a LAN;

switching appropriate electrical connecting lines of said peripheral component to electrically couple modem detection logic to said receptacle;

determining if said peripheral component is coupled to a modem;

switching appropriate electrical connecting lines of said peripheral component to electrically couple ISDN detection logic to said receptacle;

determining if said peripheral component is coupled to an ISDN; and

sending a signal to a host computer indicating a type of connection being made to said peripheral component, if any.